



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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**LAKE CITY REMODELING CONTRACTOR SENTENCED FOR POSTING
IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ABOUT A MINOR ON THE INTERNET AND FOR
POSSESSION OF FIREARMS BY A CONVICTED FELON**

Jacksonville, Florida— Today, October 28, 2002, United States District Judge Ralph W. Nimmons, sentenced James Finley Taylor, age 38, of Lake City, Florida, to 5 years 3 months' imprisonment followed by 3 years' supervised release for using the internet to post identifying information about a young girl, and for possession of multiple firearms by a convicted felon.

Taylor, a home remodeling contractor, had been hired by a Jacksonville woman to remodel her kitchen. The woman later fired Taylor, dissatisfied with the quality of his work, and refused to pay him the full amount for the job. Taylor retaliated by posting the real name and telephone number of the woman's 12-year-old daughter on an internet "bulletin board," describing the girl in sexually suggestive terms. The family was then besieged with calls from men seeking sexual contact with the girl. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office traced the internet posting to Taylor's home computer

in Lake City and executed a search warrant. During the search, the agents found and seized computer evidence as well as numerous firearms, which the defendant, a previously convicted felon, was prohibited by federal law to possess.

The case marks the first completed prosecution in the United States for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2425. Passed as part of the Protection of Children from Sexual Predators Act of 1998, the statute makes it illegal to put the name, address, telephone number, or other identifying information of a child under 16 on the internet for the purpose of enticing people to pursue sexual contact with the child. The defendant was also convicted of the federal offense of being a felon in possession of the firearms found during the search.

The case was investigated in a collaborative effort by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John J. Sciortino of the United States Attorney's Office, Middle District of Florida, Jacksonville Division.